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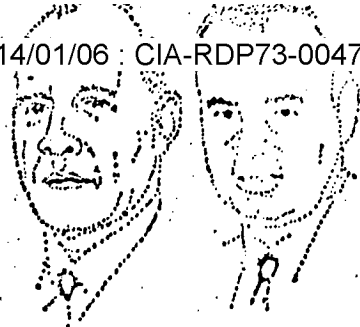
STAT

A T T N: SCOTT

REPORT

Inside Washington

By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT



Family Fight Over Money

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 — The Senate and House Democratic Campaign Committees are tanking up for another big 00-a-plate fund-raising dinner — this time strictly on their own and with the National Committee firmly excluded.

Tentative date is May 5. President Johnson and Vice President Humphrey will be the headline attractions.

Reason for the stern exclusion of the National Committee is a bitter grievance or the two congressional campaign committees: They have never gotten their share of the last fund-raising dinner, avowedly held for their benefit. The National Committee ran it and pocketed all the receipts.

Determined not to let this happen again, Senator Warren Magnuson, Wash., and Representative Mike Kirwan, O., committee chairmen, decided to hold a fund-raising affair wholly under their own auspices and with all funds securely theirs.

PLAIN TALK

Blunt notice of this intention was served at a plain-talking meeting with Acting Democratic Treasurer Clifton Carter, long-time Texas friend of President Johnson.

Carter objected. He argued the plan was directly counter to a long-standing agreement that the National Committee would conduct all large-scale fund-raising activities. This arrangement was put into practice in 1961 under President Kennedy.

"That was the understanding," was the retort, "but the National Committee hasn't lived up to it. It has kept all the returns from the last dinner. They were to be split three ways: one third to go to each committee, and the remainder put in escrow for later determination by the chairmen of the two committees.

"Some 7,500 tickets were sold and more than \$600,000 cleared. But we not only haven't seen a

cent of it, we haven't even gotten an accounting."

This was flatly denied by Carter.

The Texan contended that the Senate and House committees are being paid off, and in the end will wind up with more than their share.

He ended on that, he gave the following explanation:

Under the 1961 agreement, the National Committee allots each of the campaign committees \$10,000 a month to build up an electioneering chest. Last year that amounted to \$120,000 for each committee; by the end of this year another \$120,000 — a total of \$240,000 for each of them.

In addition, the National Committee is putting up \$60,000 for the rental of electronic equipment (tape recorders, etc.) used by Democratic legislators up for election, particularly first-termers facing tough contests. Of the 67 Democratic freshmen in the House, 48 are from districts captured from the Republicans in the 1964 Johnson landslide.

"So you see," maintained Carter, "that will make \$300,000 for each committee by the end of 1966."

But Magnuson and Kirwan weren't buying it. They emphatically rejected Carter's ingenious rationalization.

SEPARATE DEAL

"The \$10,000-a-month payment has nothing to do with this fund-raising dinner," they indignantly told him. "It was separate and distinct from the other. We had a definite understanding that the profits from the dinner were to be divided three ways. Any claim to the contrary doesn't hold water."

The discussion ended on this discordant note. Prospects of the two congressional committees' getting the portions they claim are remote.

The National Committee is more than \$2.5 million in the red.

Party leaders are baffled by

this big debt. It will be a major topic at next month's meeting in Washington of the full National Committee. Carter, slated to be formally elected national treasurer, is saying he will make a detailed financial report.

It should make interesting reading.

PUTTING ON WEIGHT

President Johnson's loudly-touted 1965 "bare bones" foreign aid budget is rapidly gaining a lot of fat.

With much hooplah the President last year announced he was cutting foreign aid to \$3.38 billion. Taking him at his word that he was economizing, Congress pared that to \$3.2 billion.

It was the lowest foreign aid budget enacted since the start of the stupendous program.

But now it develops those fan-fared "bare bones" are filling out.

In the past several weeks, without being heralded, the President has asked Congress for two supplemental foreign aid appropriations — \$415 million to meet "unforeseen costs" in Viet Nam and the Dominican Republic, and \$120 million for the U. S. share in the newly-established Asian Development Bank.

If these supplemental grants are voted by Congress, they will bring the total foreign aid budget for this fiscal year to \$3.735 billion — one of the highest in years.

FLASHES

Robert Fleming, head of the ABC news bureau in Washington, has been sounded out as possible replacement for White House press secretary Bill Moyers. Fleming is the latest newscaster to be offered the job. As disclosed by this column last month, William Lawrence, ABC White House correspondent, and Raymond Scherer, NBC staffman, were propositioned and turned it down. Despite coy White House disclaimers, Moyers wants to be relieved of his high-pressure job and shifted to less hectic work.

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